

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
/037 W

-----131844Z 055510 /44

R 131430Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2443

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0929

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, CSCE
SUBJECT: MUTUAL ABOLITION OF VISA FEES; MATERIALS CONFISCATED FROM
TOURISTS

1. DURING MEETING WITH ACTING HEAD OF MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT NOVOTNY
APRIL 12 POLCOUNS AGAIN BROUGHT UP TWO LONGSTANDING ISSUES.

2. MUTUAL REDUCTION/ABOLITION OF NIV FEES: NOVOTNY SAID THAT GOC
HAS REACHED A DECISION ON THIS, BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHICH PART
OF MFA WILL COMMUNICATE IT, THE SIXTH DEPARTMENT OR THE CONSULAR
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT ZANTOVSKY WAS TO
DECIDE WHICH OFFICE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE DECISION, BUT HAS BEEN
PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY EXTENDED ILLNESS. COMMENT: WE CANNOT
PREDICT WHEN WE WILL BE GIVEN A FINAL ANSWER, BUT FEEL CERTAIN THAT
IT WILL BE NEGATIVE. END COMMENT.

3. MATERIALS CONFISCATED FROM TOURISTS: POLCOUNS HAD PERIODICALLY
OVER PAST SIX MONTHS PRODDED NOVOTNY TO ARRANGE RETURN OF BOOKS
WHICH HAD BEEN CONFISCATED BY BORDER GUARDS FROM TWO AMERICAN
TOURISTS VISITING CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY CAR. IN THIS MEETING
NOVOTNY SAID THAT HE HAD LOOKED INTO THE MATTER, BUT THAT BOOKS
COULD NOT BE FOUND. HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT
THE BOOKS HAD BEEN DESTROYED SHORTLY AFTER SEIZURE, AS IS NORMAL
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PRACTICE WITH CONFISCATED GOODS. NOVOTNY SAID MFA COULD BE
HELPFUL IN SUCH CASES ONLY IF NOTIFIED VERY SOON AFTER GOODS WERE
CONFISCATED. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS PUT ON THE RECORD ITS
CONCERN ABOUT SUCH TREATMENT OF AMERICAN TOURISTS, BUT WE DO NOT
EXPECT GOC BORDER GUARDS TO CEASE PRACTICE OF OCCASIONALLY
SEIZING MATERIALS THEY CONSIDER "SUBVERSIVE."

BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FEES, VISAS, CUSTOMS SEIZURES, MEETING REPORTS, PERSONAL EFFECTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE00929
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0626
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacbdr.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b55235a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2820586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUTUAL ABOLITION OF VISA FEES; MATERIALS CONFISCATED FROM TOURISTS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b55235a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009